GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:477
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
THREE TIER PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where three- tier Panchayat elections are being conducted regularly;

(b) the names of the States having employees and women employees possessing administrative and technical know-how for the elected Pancha- yats and percentage of these employees;

(c) the names of the States not appointing administrative and technical employees despite funds made available by the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which Panchayat elections are likely to be held in States like Jammu & Kashmir and the body responsible for the task of making estimates and utilisation of funds to such States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) The responsibility for holding elections to the Panchayats lies with the State Governments and State Election Commissions concerned. The Constitution mandates that where the Part IX of the Constitution applies, Panchayat elections be conducted every five years, under the overall superintendence, direction and control of the State Election Commission. The Constitution also empowers the State Legislatures to make laws regarding elections. Normally the Panchayati Raj elections are held as per schedule in all Part IX States except in the cases of pendency of court cases etc.

(b) & (c) Providing the administrative and technical staff for the Panchayati Raj Institutions, including women employees, is primarily the responsibility of State Governments concerned. On the basis of Annual Plans received from States / UTs during 2013-14 and 2014-15 under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), this Ministry has sanctioned admi- nistrative / technical staff for Gram Panchayats as given in Annex.

(d) Jammu & Kashmir has its own Panchayati Raj Act and elections are held as per the provisions of this Act. As per information provided by the State Gove- rnment of Jammu & Kashmir, Gram Panchayat elections were last held in that State in July 2011. The Mini- stry of Panchayati Raj provides funds under its schemes, i.e. Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) to the concerned States / UTs including the State of Jammu & Kashmir after examination by and decision of the prescribed authority (as per the guidelines of the respective scheme) thereon.